UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/1996/NGO/1
20 February 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fortieth session
11-22 March 1996
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Statement submitted by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International, Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA), Italian Centre of Solidarity, Socialist International Women (SIW), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and International Inner Wheel and International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling (IRTAC), non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

Violence against women and the peace process

1. The non-governmental organizations listed above, concerned about the violations of human rights and the status of women in areas of armed conflict, in particular in the area of former Yugoslavia, welcome the denunciation of systematic rape and forced pregnancy and other acts of violence committed against women and children as a war crime in all relevant documents of the

* E/CN.6/1996/1.

96-03908 (E) 230296 270296

thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women with the Platform for Action as well as in the Regional Platform for Action of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (E/CN.6/1995/5/Add.4) and the report of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organizations Forum.

2. We also take note of the appeals in the above-mentioned documentation to immediately stop such criminal acts and human rights violations and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of such crimes.

3. In order to ensure the success of all attempts to bring peace to the area of conflict and to help all victims to cope with the traumatic experiences, we urge the Commission to insist that Government fulfil their obligations under the international human rights instruments and the Dayton agreement:

(a) To support the United Nations Ad Hoc War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in identifying, placing on trial and punishing all persons found guilty of war crimes committed against women and children;

(b) To ensure that women of diverse backgrounds are appointed to the tribunal;

(c) To facilitate the training of all persons engaged in investigating and judging gender-specific crimes;

(d) To set aside funds for counselling victims of gender-specific crimes.